

Guidance on Fire and EMS Department Non-Emergency Activities

Based on Governor Scott's Executive Order Addendum 8, as of November 19, 2020 the following guidelines are meant to be used by Fire and EMS departments as best safe practices for activities related to non-emergency operations. This guidance only applies to departments whose responders have the essential need to participate in trainings, meetings, and work details within the confines of the emergency services facility or other designated locations. This guidance does not apply to emergency response.

Requirements for Entry

Prior to any in-person activity at your station the following are responsibilities of the department leadership and attendees:

- Individuals shall not attend if they have tested positive for COVID-19 or have been in contact with any person who is diagnosed with COVID-19 within the past 14 days. Individuals should also not attend if they have been recommended to quarantine due to health, contact, or travel reasons or if they have not completed a recommended quarantine according to Department of Health guidelines.
- Individuals shall not attend if they have symptoms of COVID-19. Those symptoms are:
 - Fever, a fever is considered a temperature of 100.4 Fahrenheit or greater
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath.
 - Additional symptoms that may be associated in addition to the ones above are:
 - chills/shaking
 - muscle pain
 - headache
 - sore throat
 - loss of taste and smell
- A safety officer who is knowledgeable about the most current health and safety requirements must be appointed for each event. This person must be physically present for the duration of the event and have the authority to stop or modify activities.
- Prior to entering the facility individuals shall be screened per the department screening guidelines, to ensure they have no symptoms of COVID-19. This screening shall be documented and include verification that the individual has no symptoms of respiratory illness and a temperature check.
 - Individuals who show any signs of respiratory illness and/or a temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or greater shall not be allowed entry and must leave.
- The most current health and safety requirements shall be posted and all individuals entering the facility shall be made aware of them
 - The following signage shall be posted at the entrances to the facility:
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/StayHomeFromWork_Horizontal.pdf

- At the entrances of any designated common area or room the department shall clearly post the policy limiting the occupancy of the space, and the minimum social distancing, hand washing/hand sanitizing and space cleaning requirements. Signage is available [here](#)
- The facility must be routinely cleaned and disinfected and have sufficient disinfection supplies on hand. All vehicles and equipment must be disinfected between uses to the satisfaction of the safety officer. Disinfecting guidance is available [here](#).
- The facility must support access to handwashing and/or hand sanitizer.

Classroom-Based Training and Meetings

- No classroom-based in-person meetings should take place at this time.
- Classroom-based training that involves practical evolutions that can not be completed virtually and are considered essential to a department's operational status are addressed in the Essential Classroom-Based Training below.

Essential Classroom-Based Training

- Where Classroom-based training that involves practical evolutions that can not be completed virtually and are considered essential to a department's operational status, the following rules shall be in place:
 - No more than 10 individuals may participate.
 - All participants must wear a department approved face-covering while in the facility. Guidance for face coverings can be found at: <https://apps.health.vermont.gov/COVID/faq/#how-to-protect-yourself-face-masks>
 - The facility used must provide sufficient space for adequate social distancing of participants. Activities should always be spaced 6 feet apart and individuals should maintain adequate social distancing of at least 6 feet.
 - If multiple groups use the same facility, care must be taken to ensure that each group remains distinctly separate without commingling in shared spaces.
 - The space should be well ventilated, preferably allowing significant outside air replacement rather than recirculation.

Outdoor Training and Work Details (to include large open well-ventilated areas including apparatus bays)

- Where outdoor training takes place, the following rules shall be in place:
 - No more than 10 individuals may participate in one location.
 - All participants must wear department approved face-coverings while in proximity to others. Guidance for face coverings can be found at: <https://apps.health.vermont.gov/COVID/faq/#how-to-protect-yourself-face-masks>
 - Activities should always be spaced 6 feet apart and participants should maintain adequate social distancing of at least 6 feet unless close contact is absolutely necessary.
 - When participation requires close contact (within six feet), personal protective equipment shall include eye protection and gloves in addition to the required face covering.

- When vehicle use is required and the availability of vehicles requires more than one occupant, face coverings shall be worn by all. Passenger compartments should be well ventilated, preferably allowing significant outside air replacement rather than recirculation.
- Any incident that results in bleeding or other bloodborne pathogen exposure requires compliance to the OSHA Bloodborne pathogen standard.